

Appl. No.: 10/650,031

December 30, 2004

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312

Page 7

REMARKS

This acknowledges the first action Notice of Allowance dated October 20, 2004, which includes Examiner's amendments and Examiner's "Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

This amendment corrects an error in grammar in claims 3 and 14-18 by changing "comprising" to "comprises." This amendment also adds claims which are supported by page 6, lines 5-8 of the specification wherein it is stated that the pressure of the coolant is at a pressure slightly greater than the pressure prevailing in the reaction medium and that generally this positive pressure between the inside of the tubes and the reaction medium is between 0.5 and 5 bar and preferably between 1 and 4 bar. In contrast, in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, it is stated "and the pressure of the coolant would be the same as the pressure of the reaction medium" (emphasis added).

Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that the Statement of Reasons for Allowance is incorrect due to an apparent misreading of claim 1. In the expression in claim 1, "the boilable coolant is introduced into the heat-exchange zone (2) at a temperature close to the boiling point of said coolant at the pressure of the reaction medium," the expression "at the pressure of the reaction medium" qualifies the pressure at which the "boiling point" of the coolant is measured. It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would interpret the claim in this manner since it is well known that the higher pressure, the higher the "boiling point of the coolant," and therefore it is necessary to specify the pressure at which the boiling point is measured, and in this case, the boiling point is measured at the pressure of the reaction medium. Consequently, the newly-added claims make it clear that the pressure inside the tubes does not have to be the same as the pressure inside the reaction medium, and is preferably at least 1 to 4 bar greater than the pressure in the reaction medium.

PET-2097

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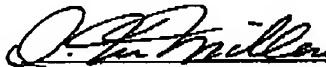
Page 8

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment should be entered since it does not bring up any new issues on the one hand, and on the other hand, corrects a grammatical error in several of the claims and adds claims which support applicants' intended interpretation of claim 1 by one of ordinary skill in the art, contrary to the interpretation given in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

If this amendment is not entered as it stands but instead requires modification, counsel for applicants would highly appreciate a telephone call from the Examiner prior to January 20, 2005, the due date for paying the issue fee so that the issues can be expeditiously resolved.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: PET-2097Date: December 30, 2004

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PET-2097